

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method for making mono-axially oriented draw tape, the method comprising the steps of:
  - forming a solid sheet of thermoplastic material from molten thermoplastic material;
  - producing a set of draw tape feeds from the solid sheet of thermoplastic material; and
  - stretching and annealing the set of draw tape feeds to orient molecules within the set of draw tape feeds such that tensile strength of each draw tape feed is greater in a first direction than in a second direction which is substantially perpendicular to the first direction.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of stretching and annealing includes the step of:
  - passing the set of draw tape feeds around a series of rotating temperature-controlled rollers to stretch and anneal the set of draw tape feeds, wherein the series of rotating temperature-controlled rollers includes a first roller which is configured to rotate at a first rate and have a first temperature, and a second roller which is configured to rotate at a second rate that is different than the first rate and have a second temperature that is different than the first temperature.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of producing the set of draw tape feeds includes the step of:  
cutting the solid sheet of thermoplastic material along the first direction to produce, as the set of draw tape feeds, separate feeds of draw tape.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:  
after the step of stretching and annealing, simultaneously winding the separate feeds of draw tape onto respective hubs in order to simultaneously form multiple rolls of draw tape.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the molten thermoplastic material includes molten linear low-density polyethylene, and wherein the step of forming the hardened sheet of thermoplastic material includes the step of:  
cooling the molten linear low-density polyethylene in a bath in order to form, as the solid sheet of thermoplastic material, a single solid layer of linear low-density polyethylene.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of forming the solid sheet of thermoplastic material further includes the step of:  
prior to the step of cooling, extruding the molten linear low-density polyethylene through a die that defines an elongated opening.

Claims 7-24 (Canceled).

25. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of producing the set of draw tape feeds includes the step of:  
dimensioning each draw tape feed to accommodate closing of a top of a draw tape bag and carrying of the draw tape bag by a user.

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26. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the solid sheet of thermoplastic material includes a unitary homogenous layer; and wherein dimensioning includes the step of:
- cutting the unitary homogenous layer to simultaneously form multiple single-layer draw tape runs as the set of draw tape feeds.
27. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of:
- positioning a strip of a draw tape feed within a hem channel of the draw tape bag.
28. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of:
- heat sealing the strip of the draw tape feed to a bag panel, which forms the hem channel, to secure the strip of the draw tape feed to the bag panel.
29. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the steps of forming the solid sheet of thermoplastic material, cutting, and stretching and annealing occur in an in-line manner as part of a contiguous integrated system.
30. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of:
- concurrently winding the multiple single-layer draw tape runs onto respective hubs to provide a contiguous process from sheet formation of the solid sheet to winding of the draw tape runs.
31. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the step of cutting includes the step of:
- providing each single-layer draw tape run with (i) a thickness which is greater than 0.0015 inches, (ii) a width which is greater than 0.25 inches, and (iii) a tensile strength in a direction of the single-layer draw tape run which is greater than 26 pounds.

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32. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of producing the set of draw tape feeds includes the step of:

dimensioning each draw tape feed to accommodate closing of a top of a draw tape bag and carrying of the draw tape bag by a user;

wherein the solid sheet of thermoplastic material includes a unitary homogenous layer; and wherein dimensioning includes the step of:

cutting the unitary homogenous layer to simultaneously form multiple single-layer draw tape runs as the set of draw tape feeds;

wherein the method further comprises the step of:

positioning a strip of a draw tape feed within a hem channel of the draw tape bag, and

heat sealing the strip of the draw tape feed to a bag panel, which forms the hem channel, to secure the strip of the draw tape feed to the bag panel;

wherein the steps of forming the solid sheet of thermoplastic material, cutting, and stretching and annealing occur in an in-line manner as part of a contiguous integrated system;

wherein the method further comprises the step of:

concurrently winding the multiple single-layer draw tape runs onto respective hubs to provide a contiguous process from sheet formation of the solid sheet to winding of the draw tape runs; and

wherein cutting includes the step of:

providing each single-layer draw tape run with a thickness which is greater than 0.0015 inches, a width which is greater than 0.25 inches, and a tensile strength in a direction of the single-layer draw tape run which is greater than 26 pounds.

33. (New) A method for making mono-axially oriented draw tape for use in a draw tape bag, the method comprising:
- forming a solid sheet of thermoplastic material from molten thermoplastic material;
  - producing a set of draw tape feeds from the solid sheet of thermoplastic material;
  - stretching and annealing the set of draw tape feeds to orient molecules within the set of draw tape feeds such that tensile strength of each draw tape feed is greater in a first direction than in a second direction which is substantially perpendicular to the first direction; and
  - incorporating a portion of a draw tape feed within a top portion of the draw tape bag to enable a user to close the top portion of the draw tape bag and carry the draw tape bag.
34. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein incorporating includes:
- positioning the portion of the draw tape feed within a hem channel of the draw tape bag.
35. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein incorporating further includes:
- heat sealing the portion of the draw tape feed to a bag panel, which forms the hem channel, to secure the strip of the draw tape feed to the bag panel.
36. (New) A method for making mono-axially oriented draw tape for use in a draw tape bag, the method comprising:
- forming a solid sheet of thermoplastic material from molten thermoplastic material;
  - producing a set of draw tape feeds from the solid sheet of thermoplastic material;

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stretching and annealing the set of draw tape feeds to orient molecules within the set of draw tape feeds, tensile strength of each draw tape feed being greater in a first direction than in a second direction which is substantially perpendicular to the first direction; and

incorporating a portion of a draw tape feed within a top portion of the draw tape bag to enable a user to close the top portion of the draw tape bag and carry the draw tape bag.

37. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein incorporating includes:

positioning the portion of the draw tape feed within a hem channel of the draw tape bag.

38. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein incorporating further includes:

heat sealing the portion of the draw tape feed to a bag panel, which forms the hem channel, to secure the strip of the draw tape feed to the bag panel.